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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

The Third Formula - Milliyet
Pentagon Has Asked Ankara for a Division for Iraq - Sabah
Troop Formula for Iraq: "Has to be a State Decision"
Turkish Presence in Northern Iraq Depends on Barzani-Turkiye
Kurdish Army in Northern Iraq - Aksam
US State Department: 30 Countries Will Send Troops To Iraq -
Sabah
`US and Kurdish Troops have Joint Exercises in Northern Iraq
- Milliyet
Standard & Poors Raises Turkey's Credit Rating - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

FM Gul: `The US Wants Us'-Radikal
15,000 Troops to Iraq-Cumhuriyet
FM Gul: A New Motion is Necessary for Troop Deployment-Yeni
Safak

BRIEFING

Turkish troops for Iraqi peacekeeping: All papers report that at yesterday's Council of Ministers meeting reviewed FM Gul's US visit and the troop request by the US for Iraq. At the meeting, the council agreed that the troop deployment issue should be a State decision. The consultation process will begin with a three-way `summit' including the PM, the Chief of General Staff and the President. "Hurriyet" reports that FM Gul stressed the necessity of a parliamentary motion for the troop deployment, and said that the government has decided to send a motion to parliament `without rushing' and after informing the public about the issue. "Milliyet" Washington Correspondent Yasemin Congar draws attention to three formulas considered by the US to facilitate a Turkish decision for sending troops to Iraq. One alternative is to ensure NATO support for the stabilization force. A second alternative is based on the `Polish formula,' which guarantees NATO logistical support for Turkish troops. A third formula is an invitation to Turkish troops by the interim Iraqi council. "Sabah" reports the US State Department announcement listing the 30 countries that have agreed to send troops to Iraq.

Joint Exercise Confusion: "Milliyet" cites conflicting reports regarding joint exercises by the US and Turkey near the Turkish-Iraqi border. Although no denial has come from FM Gul or the TGS, Barzani's special forces commander Aziz Veysi stated that the joint exercises in Northern Iraq were in fact carried out by US and Kurdish troops. Veysi insisted that the conflicting reports stemmed from the AP correspondent's mixing up of the words `Turkish' and `Kurdish.' According to Veysi, no Turkish troops participated in the exercises.

Standard & Poors: "Hurriyet" reports that the international credit rating institution Standard & Poors has upgraded Turkey's credit rating from `B minus' to `B.' While upgrading Turkey's rating, S&P sent a message to the AKP urging the Government not to engage in an `election economy' that could increase Turkey's debt problem.

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Democratic messages"

Cengiz Candar argued in the mass appeal DB-Tercuman (7/29): "Gul's message for 'civilianizing' politics in Turkey will undoubtedly find support in the Pentagon, the main administrative institution of U.S. politics. . . Gul has made it clear that Turkish troops will leave Northern Iraq if the PKK/KADEK presence is eliminated. He also stressed that the Northern Iraq issue will be taken away from the TGS and put under the authority of the civilian government. . . Adopting Gul's pledges in Washington as a government policy will serve the democratization agenda of the AKP. . . It is ironic that the leadership of the 'social democratic' CHP is opposing this attempt to civilianize politics in Turkey. . . CHP is increasingly going back to the days when it was defined as a 'party of the state.' . . Not only the Americans, but those with a democratic sensitivity in Turkey, are increasingly adopting a negative view of the CHP."

"What's changed in the view of the Americans?"

Sedat Ergin wrote in the mass appeal Hurriyet (7/29): "U.S. officials are gradually realizing that staying at odds with Turkey will not serve their interest. Hawks like Rumsfeld have started moving closer to Powell, who has made a considerable effort to prevent a break in ties. The United States, determined to wipe out the terrorist threat after 9/11, cannot push Turkey aside. . . Although a bit too late, the Washington Administration realized that it had gone too far in the Suleymaniye event. Washington had to open its eyes to the growing anti-American sentiment in Turkey. The Gul visit has shown that the U.S. has acknowledged that its long-term interests will not allow the break in ties with Turkey to continue. The same is true from the AKP view of Washington. Despite all the negativity that has been experienced, the sides saw that they have no other option but to hold each other's hand and move forward."

DEUTSCH